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AN
ACCOUNT

OF THE
Prisons and Houses of Correction

IN THE
NORTHERN CIRCUIT.



IF any of the Gentlemen to whom this Pamphlet is sent will be kind enough to give the SOCIETY an account of improvements undertaken in consequence of these observations, such communications will be esteemed a favour by the SOCIETY; and are requested to be addressed to their Secretary, Mr. Bennett, under a cover directed to his Grace the Duke of Montagu, President of the Society for giving Effect to his Majesty's Proclamation.

Privy Garden, London,
June, 1789.



AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
PRESENT STATE OF THE PRISONS
AND
HOUSES OF CORRECTION
IN THE
NORTHERN CIRCUIT.

Taken from a late Publication of
JOHN HOWARD, Esq. F.R.S.
By Permission of the Author.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,
AN INTRODUCTION,

STATING

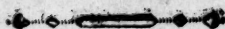
The Acts lately passed for improving the Prisons in this kingdom.
The good Effects which have resulted from those Acts, where they have been carried into Execution.

The Abuses which still continue where they have been neglected; and
The means by which those Abuses may most effectually be corrected.

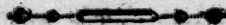
The best laws will fail in their effect, unless the assiduous and zealous endeavours of Magistrates be exerted in a strict attention to their execution.....HOWARD, page 234.

LONDON: 46

Printed by Order of the SOCIETY lately instituted for giving Effect to his Majesty's Proclamation against VICE and IMMORALITY.



IN those places in the following Extracts in which the words
“ No ALTERATION ” are inserted, particular attention
is recommended to be paid to the Gaols, as those Gaols will
for the most part be found in a very bad condition. A refer-
ence to Mr. HOWARD's Publication in 1784, would on these
occasions be adviseable.





INTRODUCTION.



A FEW years ago, the state of the Prisons and Houses of Correction in this kingdom, was such as was calculated to counteract almost every purpose for which those buildings were intended. In consequence of the total want of attention to air, to cleanliness, and whatever concerned the health of prisoners, the gaol-fever prevailed to such a degree, as to occasion the death of many more persons than fell by the hands of the executioner. The fatal effects of this disorder were often extended to debtors, as well as felons; to the keepers of prisons, as well as those confined

a

fined in them ; to witneſſes, to jurymen, and even to Judges on the bench.*

The morals of priſoners were at this time as much neglected as their health. Idleneſs, drunkenneſs, and all kinds of vice, were ſuffered to continue in ſuch a manner as to confirm old offenders in their bad practices, and to render it almoſt certain, that the minds of thoſe who were confined for their firſt faults, would be corrupted, inſtead of being corrected, by their imprifonment.

In this ſituation, it is probable, the gaols in this Iſland would ſtill have continued, if the attention of the Public had not been called to the ſubject by the labours of Mr. HOWARD. The true ſtate of the priſons was made known by that gentleman, and the means were pointed out by which they might be improved.

In conſequence of the information which was thus obtained, the ſubject was conſidered by the

* At the aſſize held in Oxford Caſtle, 1577, all who were preſent died within forty hours. The Lord Chief Baron, the Sheriff, and about 300 more.

Vide Baker's Chronicle, page 353.

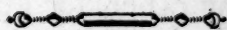
Legislature with the attention which its importance deserved. Several acts of Parliament were passed for the better regulation of gaols and houses of correction; and in consequence of these acts, and of the exertions of many public bodies, and public-spirited individuals, much good has been done. Many new prisons have been built, in which the chief defects of the old ones have been avoided, many of the old ones have been improved, and attention has been paid to air, to cleanliness, and of course to health. The result of the whole has been, that the *gaol-fever* by which such numbers not only of guilty, but of innocent persons were destroyed, *is now almost eradicated*, and our gaols may for the most part be visited without danger. But it is observed, that at this point the spirit of improvement unhappily seems to stop, scarcely touching upon that still more important object, the reformation of the morals of prisoners.

It is with a view to attain this object, and to correct those abuses which still continue in our gaols, that the following observations are submitted to the consideration of those persons, whose situation renders them the most able to contribute to so good a work. The task will perhaps not be found to be so difficult as it may at first sight be

supposed. If the acts of the 14th Geo. III. cap. 59, and 24 Geo. III. cap. 54, are examined, it will appear that provision is already made for the correction of most of these abuses, and what is now chiefly required, is to take care that those acts are properly enforced. The following pages point out the good effects which have resulted from them, where they have been carried into execution; and the evils which still continue, where they have been neglected.

For these reasons, it is hoped, that the Magistrates in the different Circuits will exert themselves in their respective Towns and Counties; and that taking the following observations as their guide, they will endeavour to carry into effect the good intentions of the Legislature. For this purpose, the several circumstances here mentioned are particularly recommended to their attention.*

* Most of the regulations which follow are expressly enjoined in some of the acts lately passed for the improvement of gaols, but many of the clauses in those acts have been too much neglected in several towns and counties.



I. That agreeably to the act of the 32d of Geo. II. cap. 28, Rules be made by the Justices, and confirmed by the Judges, for the direction of the gaolers, and the conduct of the prisoners, and that the same be painted on a board in a legible manner, and hung up in one or more conspicuous parts of every prison.*

II. That the act of the 14th of Geo. III. cap. 59; and the clauses against drunkenness, in the 20, 21, 22, and 23 sections of the act of the 24th of Geo. III, cap. 54, be in like manner hung up in the prisons.†

III. That until the laudable example of the county of Suffex, and some few other places, in abolishing all fees, be generally adopted, a table of fees made by the Justices, and confirmed by the Judges, be also hung up in the prisons; and that

* What is here recommended has been carried into execution in a very proper manner at Reading, Bury, and Lancaster.— Any persons who wish the gaols under their direction to be well managed, would find it worth while to procure copies of the regulations established at those places.

† Vide act 14 Geo. III. cap. 59.

no garnish, or any other fee but what is allowed as above, be permitted to be taken of any prisoner.*

IV. That every prison be white-washed at least once in every year, and that this be done twice (that is to say after each gaol delivery) in prisons which are much crowded.†

V. That a pump and plentiful supply of water be provided, and that every part of the prison be kept as clean as possible.‡

VI. That every prison be supplied with a warm and cold bath, or commodious bathing tubs, and that the prisoners be indulged in the use of such baths, with a proper allowance of soap, and the use of towels.§

VII. That attention be paid to the sewers, in order to render them as little offensive as possible.

* Vide act 32 Geo. II. cap. 21, sect. 12.

† Vide act 14 Geo. III. cap. 59.

‡ Vide ibid.

§ Vide ibid.

VIII. That no animals of any kind which render a prison dirty, be allowed to be kept in it, either by the gaoler, or any prisoner. The only exception to this rule, should be one dog kept by the gaoler.*

IX. That great care be taken, that as perfect a separation as possible be made of the following classes of prisoners, viz. That felons be kept entirely separate from debtors; men from women;

* If any persons should be of opinion, that the attention to cleanliness which is recommended in the five foregoing articles, has little connection with the morals of prisoners, they are requested to read the following extracts from *Mr. Howard's* last publication:

“ Endeavouring to introduce habits of cleanliness is an object of great importance, as many officers have observed, that the most cleanly men are always the most decent and honest, and the most slovenly and dirty are the most vicious and irregular.” Page 218.

“ I have repeatedly observed, that when I have pulled down old cottages that had clay floors, and no pantry, no pump, no out-house for fuel, nor any vault, and have built new ones with these conveniences, which have also been white-washed both within and without—the very same families that were before slovenly and dirty, have upon this change of their habitations, become clean and neat in their persons, in their houses, and gardens.” Page 118.

old offenders from young beginners ; and convicts from those who have not been tried.*

X. That all prisoners, except debtors, be clothed on their admission with a prison uniform, and that their own clothes be returned them when they are brought to trial, or are dismissed.

XI. That care be taken that the prisoners are properly supplied with food, and their allowance not deficient, either in weight or quality.†

XII. That no gaoler, or any person in trust for him, or employed by him, be permitted to sell any wine, beer, or other liquors, or permit or suffer any such to be sold in any prison ; or on any pretence whatever, to suffer any tippling or gaming in the prison.‡

* Vide act 22 Geo. III. cap. 64.

† Vide *ibid.*

‡ This is expressly commanded in the act of 24 Geo. III. cap. 54, sect. 20 and 22, and attention to this circumstance is most earnestly recommended, as Mr. HOWARD observes, page 234, “ No effectual reform will be made in our prisons till the root of the evil be cut off, which, from the closest observation, I am convinced is the *vice of drunkenness*.”

XIII. That a proper salary be given to the gaoler, in lieu of the profits which he formerly derived from the tap, from fees, and other perquisites.*

XIV. That those prisoners who are committed to hard labour be not permitted to be idle, and that such other prisoners as are willing to work, be supplied with materials, and be allowed part of the profits of such work, as the act directs.†

XV. That a clergyman be appointed, with a proper salary, and that divine service be regularly performed on Sundays and holydays: that on those days no persons be allowed to visit the prisoners; and that such prisoners as will not attend divine service be locked up, and not suffered to disturb others while it is performed.

XVI. That care be taken that no swearing, cursing, or profane conversation be permitted, that the keepers and turnkeys be cautioned against

* Vide act 24 Geo. III. cap. 54, sect. 20.

† Vide act 22 Geo. III. cap. 64, sect. 7.

it, and strictly enjoined not to suffer the prisoners to be guilty of it.*

XVII. That cells be provided for the refractory, and night-rooms for solitary-confinement, but that no prisoner be kept in any dungeon, or room under ground.†

XVIII. That a surgeon or apothecary be appointed (with a proper salary) to afford the necessary assistance to the sick, and that two rooms, one for men, and one for women, be set apart as infirmaries, and be furnished with proper bedding.‡

XIX. That great attention be paid to what concerns the debtors, as it is found that that part of the management of our prisons has hitherto been the most neglected.

XX. That wherever any legacies have been bequeathed, or any charitable donations given for the benefit of prisoners, an account of the same be hung up in the prison; and that care be taken that

* Vide 22 Geo. III. cap. 64.

† Vide act 14 Geo. III. cap. 59.

‡ Vide *ibid.*

the sums of money so given, be employed to the purposes for which they were intended by the donors.

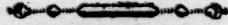
XXI. That agreeably to the act of 22 Geo. III. cap. 64, the keepers of every house of correction be obliged to deliver to the Chairman at the Quarter Sessions, a list of the prisoners in his custody, distinguishing their age and sex, and mentioning in what trade or business each person hath been employed, and is best qualified for; as also the behaviour of such person during his or her confinement.*

XXII. That the prisons be frequently visited; that the visitors take notice whether the regulations which have been established are observed or neglected; that a report from the visitors be presented to the Justices at every Sessions, and that these reports be taken into consideration, at least once a year, viz. at the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.

XXIII. That attention be paid to prisoners when they are discharged, and that, if possible,

* If this order were strictly enforced, it would necessarily oblige the gaoler to pay some attention to the prisoners in his custody.

some means be pointed out to them, by which they may be enabled to gain a livelihood in an honest manner.



In the plan here proposed, it is to be observed, that no indulgence is recommended to be shewn to prisoners, but what is necessary in order to preserve their health and reform their morals. The use of imprisonment is to correct those who are vicious, to deter others from becoming so, to confine such as are suspected of crimes till their guilt or innocence is proved; and lastly, to secure the persons of debtors for the benefit of their creditors. If this is the case, how strongly are we called upon to take care that the debtor, the person whose guilt is doubtful, and the young offender,* be not exposed, while in prison, to any disorders which may destroy his health, or endanger his life; or to any temptation from bad example, or bad society, which may render it probable that he will be sent

* In Holland, Switzerland, and Scotland, the number of young offenders, and of prisoners of all kinds, debtors as well as felons, is very small. This is chiefly to be ascribed to the care which is taken in those countries to bring up children in habits of industry, and to give even the poorest a moral and religious education.

back

back into the world, a worse member of the community than he was at the beginning of his confinement.

The success which has attended the attempts already made to reform the state of our gaols, gives the greatest reason to hope, that by persisting in our endeavours, we may complete the desired object. If after all that has been done, our prisons were now in as dreadful a condition as when Mr. HOWARD first visited them, there would be some reason to fear that the evil was not to be conquered; but as we find that the greatest difficulties are already overcome, that the greatest dangers are removed, and that in several counties * the labours of

* The examples of the counties of York, Sussex, Cornwall, Lancaster, Norfolk, Suffolk, Gloucester, and Oxford, are worthy of imitation; and the following accounts of Oxford and Wymondham, deserve to be noticed in every part of the kingdom, as they shew in what manner a county gaol, and county bridewell may (*without additional expense to the county*) be made places of real reformation.

COUNTY GAOL, OXFORD CASTLE.

The convicts were employed in building the new gaol. The lodges and the gateway, with the chapel over it, were built entirely by them. They were guarded only by one man, though
several

of the magistrates have been attended with greater success than the most sanguine advocates for reformation had ventured to predict—in such a case,

several of them for their good behaviour had their irons taken off. This proves that among such delinquents many are reclaimable, and not so entirely abandoned, as some are apt to suppose. The encouragements here given with respect to their diet, clothes, and term of confinement, have been the means of recovering many from their bad habits, and of rendering them useful members of society. Here the convicts are not defrauded of the King's allowance of 2s. 6d. a week,

An account of the earnings of the Prisoners in the County Gaol and Bridewell of Oxford, together with the expense of their maintenance, materials for work, &c. &c. from January 23, 1786, to January 7, 1787.

	£.	s.	d.
Total earnings - - - - -	198	1	11
Expense in county allowance of bread	58	19	0
Clothes and extra feeding - - - -	85	1	9½
Over-looker - - - - -	22	10	0
Materials for work, &c. - - - -	11	11	0
Total expense - - -	178	1	9½
Total earnings - - -	198	1	11

Balance gained by the county from Jan.

23, 1786, to Jan. 7, 1787 - - - 20 : 0 : 1½

Ditto gained by the county from Jan.

7, 1787, to Jan. 1, 1788 - - - 113 : 9 : 2

Ditto gained by the county from Jan. 1,

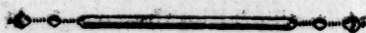
1788, to Jan. 1, 1789 - - - 135 : 15 : 6

This

case, it may reasonably be expected, that no person whose situation affords the means of contributing to

This great increase in the balance is chiefly owing to the convicts being employed in building the new gaol: it cannot therefore be expected that it should continue as great when the building is finished. There is however little reason to doubt of a considerable sum being always gained to the county from the work of the convicts. It should also be observed, that the saving the expense of maintaining convicts, which would otherwise be incurred, and the gaining a balance in favour of the county, are but secondary advantages. The great benefit which has resulted from the exertions of the magistrates in this county, is the reformation in the morals of the prisoners. In this respect they have been remarkably successful; and it deserves to be noticed, that in order to bring the convicts to habits of industry, promises have been found more effectual than threats. A subscription has been raised by the gentlemen of the county, by which some prisoners, when discharged, have been clothed, others have been furnished with a complete set of tools to go on with their work or manufacture; and a little money has been given them at their discharge, with an assurance of further encouragement, in case they brought a certificate of their good behaviour from their employers at the end of the year. Promises of rewards of this kind, or in some cases of applying to his Majesty to remit part of the term of confinement, have in every instance but one, answered much better than threats of further or more severe punishment.

to so good a work, will refuse to take some pains to put the finishing hand to what has been so happily and successfully begun.



WYMONDHAM.

By examining the accounts of the house of correction at Wymondham, in the county of Norfolk, from October 8, 1783, to April 11, 1789, it appears that the earnings of the convicts have every year exceeded the expense of maintaining them, and in the course of five years and a half, the balance gained by the county, after defraying all charges, has amounted to £262 : 18 : 5 $\frac{1}{4}$. It is also to be observed, that by means of this well-regulated house of correction, many offenders have been brought to acquire habits of industry; and no method is found so effectual towards reforming the morals of delinquents, as the teaching them a profitable trade. It is a FACT, that some, even of those convicts who appeared the worst, are now become useful members of the community, and support themselves and their families, by the practice of that trade, which was taught them during their confinement in the prison of Wymondham.





A B S T R A C T

F R O M

M R. H O W A R D's

ACCOUNT OF THE ENGLISH PRISONS.

NORTHERN CIRCUIT.

COUNTY GAOL, YORK CASTLE.

THE felons' cells are now floored with *unseasoned* oak. The court is *properly* paved with broad stones, and the drain is carried through the vault, so that the passage is not offensive: there are also iron palifades in the castle yard, to prevent access within ten feet of the court.—

†† B

Water

Water is laid in, but there is *no* bath. Here I found the present *bread-inspector*, Mr. *Watson*, who has a salary of twenty guineas a year; and I have *often* wished there were *such* a person to *inspect, weigh, and deliver* the bread to prisoners in *London*. No rules or orders relative to the admission of liquors. Gaoler's salary £300 in lieu of the tap.

1787, Aug. 23, Debtors 65. Felons, &c. 38.

1788, Jan. 11, ——— 50. ——— 51.*

COUNTY BRIDEWELLS.

WEST-RIDING, WAKEFIELD. A new house for the keeper, and many solitary cells in dark

* Both debtors and felons are here employed, as at Lincoln castle, Norwich castle, Ipswich, and some few other gaols, in making garters, purses, nets, laces, &c. many of the debtors have plain cheap machines for weaving garters, similar to those at Lincoln. It always gives me pleasure to find prisoners employed, as they are then more healthy: it also diverts them, and is a mean of procuring them clean linen, or a little milk, or meat to their bread; and I remember an old gaoler's observation, "that it kept his prisoners out of mischief."

passages.

passages. It would have been better to have built a new prison in a more elevated and healthy situation. Four or five of the prisoners were ill. Allowance 2*d.* a day, and half their earnings. Weight of the twopenny loaf 1*lb.* 3*oz.* Few or none were at work. Keeper's salary now £132.

1788, Jan. 9, Prisoners 54.

NORTH-RIDING, THIRSK.

1787, Aug. 22, 11 Prisoners.

A new Prison is just finished at Northallerton.
No water in the women's court.

EAST-RIDING, BEVERLEY. Here are three new rooms, but it is still an *inconvenient* prison. Employment now picking oakum at 4*d.* a stone. I found this prison, as at my former visits, *quiet*; the present and late keeper for many years past *not* selling beer. Salary now £50.

1788, Jan. 13, Prisoners 9.

YORK CITY AND COUNTY GAOL.

There are four cells for the felons, down sixteen steps; only one day-room, in which a boy for picking pockets was an associate with two highwaymen. On my mentioning to the gaoler that liquors were given from the street in at the debtors' windows, he replied, I cannot help their being often intoxicated.

1787, Aug. 23, Debtors 4. Felons, &c. 3.
 1788, Jan. 11, ——— 10. ——— 6.

YORK CITY BRIDEWELL. The wall that obstructed the air is removed further from the cells, and two new cells are added. Water is laid in from the river *Ouse*. Employment, pounding tile-

tile-sherds, at 3*d.* a bushel. Keeper's salary now
£30.

1787, Aug. 23, Prisoners 14.

1788, Jan. 11, Prisoners 10.

ST. PETER'S GAOL. No alteration.

1787, Aug. 23, No Prisoners.

1788, Jan. 11, Debtors 3.

BEVERLEY TOWN GAOL. No alteration,
but the tap taken away. Keeper has no salary.

1788, Jan. 13, Prisoners 2. Defenter 1.

BEVERLEY HALL-GARTH, for DEBTORS.—
No alteration. Keeper has no salary: no licence,
as he says; but on a board there was written,
"Ale sold here by *Samuel Tadman*."*

1788, Jan. 13, Prisoner 1.

* In my various tours, I have often heard of the death of
one or more prisoners by *intoxication* and *quarrels* in *prisons*.
Here one had lately been unhappily killed.

LEEDS

LEEDS TOWN GAOL. No alteration, but now barrack beds in the rooms. Gaoler's salary £5:5:0.*

1788, Jan. 6, Prisoner 1.

LEEDS INFIRMARY.

This is one of the *best hospitals* in the kingdom. In the wards, which are fifteen feet eight inches

* In all manufacturing towns it would be proper to have solitary cells for the confinement of faulty apprentices and servants for a few days, where they should be constrained to work, and have no visitors unless clergymen: for a short term would probably do more to effect a reformation, than three or four months confinement; as it is generally found that in the first two or three days prisoners seem to have their minds most affected and penitent.

A county magistrate said, " we have thought it necessary to refrain from commitment in many cases where that mode of proceeding would otherwise have been salutary, from a full persuasion of the total unfitness of the places of confinement or of correction, to answer those reformatory purposes for which a well regulated restraint is peculiarly calculated."

high,

high, there is great attention to cleanliness; and six circular apertures or ventilators open into a passage five feet and a half wide. There are no fixed testers: no bugs in the beds. Many are here cured of compound fractures, who would lose their limbs in the unventilated and offensive wards of some other hospitals.*

Kingston

* Here is a well regulated *work-house*, which I found at this, and at my former visits, clean and quiet. There were 49 men, 65 women, 38 boys and girls. The provisions were good of the fort, and the dietary may be acceptable to some of my readers.

The BILL *of* FARE *for* LEEDS WORK-HOUSE.

Breakfast, Every day, milk pottage and bread.

Dinner, Sunday, Mutton and broth, bread and beer.

Monday, Rice milk, bread and beer.

Tuesday, Dumplings and beer.

Wednesday, Bread, cheefe and beer.

Thursday, Beef and broth, bread and beer.

Friday, The same as *Monday*.

Saturday, Drink pottage and bread.

Supper, Sunday and Thursday, Bread and broth, or broth and beer.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, Milk pottage and bread.

The

Kingston upon HULL TOWN AND COUNTY
GAOL.

The old gaol is disused, and a new one is built in a fine situation out of the town; which, with some

The proportion of bread, for each meal, is one wheat cake, weight 3 *lb.* divided into eight parts, *viz.* two of 7 *oz.* for men, four of 6 *oz.* for women, and two of 5 *oz.* for children.

The proportion of flesh meat, is 16 *lb.* of beef or mutton for twenty persons, on an average.

Ditto 1 *lb.* of rice and 10 *oz.* of sugar, with pimento, salt and flour for ditto.

Ditto 14 *oz.* of paste each dumpling for adults, and 8 *oz.* for children.

Ditto one gallon of milk for pottage for twenty persons.

Ditto

some small alteration, would be a good gaol. The mayor and aldermen attentively inspect it, each in his month, and write their observations in a book. Allowance 3*d.* a day. A worthy clergyman attends on Wednesdays, without salary.*

No

Ditto one third of a quart (ale measure) of beer at each dinner, *Saturday* excepted.

Ditto 6*oz.* of cheese for adults, and 4*oz.* for children. With full liberty to adults to exchange their portion of beer for bread, or bread for beer.

At this, and several other work-houses, I collected the rules and orders for the better government of the poor; on which, not being the main object in view, I make no observations.

* In the *poor-house* there were fifty-four men, one hundred and three women, sixty-four boys, and fifty-four girls. The house and the numerous inhabitants were, as at my former visits, clean and neat. The placidness of their countenances bespoke the attention of the notable matron, *Mary Ecken*, who has been there thirty-one years.

I would lay *great stress* on the regular *catechising* of children in all work-houses *twice* a week. This exercise might be highly beneficial also to many older persons there, who are *very ignorant*, and I am fully persuaded can receive but little advantage from attending upon public worship and hearing sermons there, without some more easy and familiar instruction, to inform their

No licence for beer: no salary to the gaoler.—

The rules which were hung up I here copy.

1788, Jan. 14, Debtors 12. Felons, &c. 4.

RULES and ORDERS

*Established for the better Government of the GAOL
of the Town of Kingston upon Hull, and County of
the same Town, pursuant to the Statute 32d GEO.*

II. Chap. 28th.

I. If the gaoler, turnkey, or other officer, or
any prisoner, require or demand any mo-

ney

minds, and enlarge their comprehension.—On catechising like-
wise, and *plain, serious, familiar* discourse on the great *practical*
principles and duties of religion, the *beneficial* effects of *Sunday*
schools will in a *great* degree depend.—Pilfering and stealing are
frequently owing at first to the want of proper instruction in
early life; and these naturally lead to the commission of more
enormous offences; for, corrupt as our nature is, robbery and
murder are seldom, if ever, the first crimes of the unhappy
wretches who commit them; but when once persons have enter-
ed upon evil courses, they commonly advance by hasty steps,
till they become totally depraved and abandoned to all kinds
of wickedness.

ney from a prisoner at his entrance, either for garnish, chamber money, cards, seeing Lucy Tower, or on any other pretence whatever, such persons, if a prisoner, shall have no share of the corporation box for one month; and, if the gaoler, turnkey, or other officer, he shall forfeit to the debtors' fund five shillings, and return the money so obtained from the prisoner.

II. Every debtor shall retire quietly to his chamber between Lady Day and Michaelmas, at nine in the evening; between Michaelmas and Lady Day at eight; and it shall be optional for him to retire sooner; the out-doors shall be opened between Lady Day and Michaelmas at six in the morning, and between Michaelmas and Lady Day at seven.

III. For the better keeping good order, no stranger shall be permitted to view the inside of the gaol without paying to the officer attending him three-pence; nor to play within the walls of the prison, unless in company with the debtors, or with their permission,

IV. The gaoler and his officers shall treat the several prisoners in his custody with tenderness and humanity; and the prisoners on their part, shall behave to them with decency and due submission.

V. Any prisoner who shall abuse, insult, or ill-treat the gaoler, turnkey, or any other person in the gaol, shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence, for every such offence; and if the gaoler or turnkey abuse, insult, or ill-treat any of the prisoners, he shall forfeit the like sum for each offence.

VI. If any prisoner shall have just cause of complaint against the gaoler, or any of his assistants, the same shall be made to the inspector; and if the grievance be not redressed, to the next quarter sessions of the peace.

VII. The gaoler, or turnkey, shall at all times within the stated hours attend at the door, and shall not unreasonably refuse the admittance of persons enquiring for debtors.

VIII.

VIII. Debtors may send for their necessities, at all convenient times in the day, without hindrance or molestation. But the gaoler may restrain his prisoners from the use of ale, or strong beer, for the purpose only of preventing drunkenness and disorder; but on no account shall exercise this authority, unless occasioned by the improper conduct of the prisoners.

IX. If any charities be bestowed on the prisoners, the gaoler shall carefully avoid all partiality in the distribution of them, and divide them with as much equality as possible.

X. Every prisoner who shall attempt, or assist in an escape, shall be committed to close confinement: but no debtor shall be confined in an unusual place or manner, except by order of the inspector, or of the justices, or for a breach of those rules, as herein directed.

XI. If a clergyman attends the prison, due reverence and respect shall be paid to him; and every prisoner who is able, shall attend

tend divine service; and any person who shall be guilty of indecent or improper behaviour during the service, shall, for the first offence, be confined, if a debtor, to his or her chamber for one week; and if a felon, to his or her cell; for the second offence a fortnight; and for the third offence, one calendar month.

XII. Every prisoner who shall practice swearing, cursing, railing, drunkenness, or other irregular or indecent behaviour, shall forfeit for every such offence, one shilling.

XIII. Care shall be taken at all convenient opportunities to open the windows of the gaol, particularly in the felons' rooms, and all the passages, in order to admit fresh air, and preserve the health of the prisoners; and the felons shall be brought into the felons' yard, and continued there at least three hours every day, when the weather will permit, and no candles, other lights or fire, shall be admitted into any of the prisoners' cells; none of the debtors or felons' wives, children, or other of their

their families shall be permitted to live in the gaol;

XIV. If it be found necessary or requisite from the state or condition of any prisoner, such prisoner shall, as often as may be convenient, be bathed and cleansed in the bath belonging to the gaol, and the clothes of every prisoner shall be aired and cleansed in the hot oven, and particularly before they are brought into the court.

XV. The debtors' common room, passages and stairs shall be swept out daily by the debtor called the constable, or at his or her expence, the debtor who came in last to be constable.

XVI. The felons' tubs, &c. shall be emptied and cleansed at eight o'clock in winter, and seven in summer, or sooner.

XVII. No prisoner, or other person, shall throw ashes, rubbish, or other dirt into any part of the yard, except in such places as shall be

be appointed by the gaoler for that purpose; nor make water against any part of the building, under the penalty of forfeiting for each offence, if a prisoner four-pence, if any other person six-pence.

XVIII. No person shall play at quoits, skittles, or other games, that may injure the grass, or the garden, on the front or west side of the building; but shall confine their amusements to the east side; and to avoid gaming, any persons playing for or winning money at any game, shall forfeit one shilling for every such offence,

XIX. Each convict shall be confined in a separate cell, and the several prisoners of different sexes shall, as much as possible, be kept apart from each other.

XX. No prisoner shall be obliged to sleep with one that is diseased.

XXI. No dog, cat, or poultry shall be kept in the gaol by any prisoner.

XXII.

XXII. Whoever shall see or be informed of any of these rules being broken, or any other offence of any of the prisoners, shall give immediate notice of it to the inspector, or in his absence, to the gaoler.

XXIII. All fines and forfeitures imposed by these rules and orders on debtors and others, except the felons, shall be kept in a box secured with two locks, and fixed in the debtors' day-room, for the sole purpose of purchasing such necessities as may be agreed upon by a majority of the debtors, for the use of their day-room, and such instruments as they may think necessary for their reasonable amusement and exercise; the keys of the box to be kept by two persons to be appointed by such majority, and the forfeits of the felons to be laid out by the gaoler, in butchers meat for their use.

XXIV. If any prisoner refuse or neglect, for the space of one hour, to pay any penalty or forfeiture incurred as abovementioned, every such prisoner shall immediately be committed to close confinement, and a

†† D

diet

diet of bread and water for forty-eight hours.

These rules and orders to be hung up in the gaoler's common kitchen, and a copy in every day-room in the said gaol.

TABLE OF FEES.

	£.	s.	d.
<i>For</i> the lodging and board of each prisoner <i>per</i> week - - -	0	7	0
<i>For</i> each prisoner when he has a room and bed of the gaoler and diets himself, <i>per</i> week ———	0	2	0
<i>For</i> each prisoner when he finds his own bed and diet, <i>per</i> week - - -	0	0	6
<i>For</i> the discharge of each prisoner	0	13	4
<i>To</i> the turnkey for the same - - -	0	1	4
<i>If</i> two or more debtors lie in the same bed, to be paid among them weekly	0	2	6
<i>Every</i> prisoner that will eat with the gaoler to pay for his diet, three meals a day, <i>per</i> week - - -	0	4	6
<i>For</i> a copy of every commitment, if demanded — — —	0	1	0
			<i>For</i>

For every certificate of commitment in order to a <i>habeas corpus</i>	-	0	2	6
For the copy of every sberiff's warrant, if demanded	— — — —	0	1	0
For signing every certificate in order to obtain a superfeideas, or a rule or order of the court.	— —	0	2	6

We his majesty's justices of the peace for the town, and county of the town of Kingston-upon-Hull, assembled at the General Quarter Sessions of the peace held in and for the said town and county, have examined the above rules and orders, with the table of fees there underwritten, and do allow and confirm the same, the thirteenth day of July, 1786.

H. Etherington, Mayor,

R. Beatniffe, Recorder,

John Melling.

The *gaoler* is to take notice, that by the 32d. *Geo. II. c. 21. s. 12.* he shall not directly nor indirectly take of any prisoner for debt, damages, costs, or contempt any other

D 2

fee

fee for his commitment or coming into gaol, chamber rent there, release or discharge, than shall be allowed in the said table of fees, on pain to forfeit for every such offence (exclusive of the penalties inflicted by former laws) to the party aggrieved *fifty pounds*, with treble costs.

Approved by me,

J. W I L S O N.

Kingston upon HULL BRIDEWELL. No alteration in this *close* and *offensive* prison. Employment, pounding tile-sherds at $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ a bushel.

1788, Jan. 14, - - Debtor 1.

Petty Offenders 3.

Lunatics 3.

SHEFFIELD PRISON for DEBTORS, is the property of the Duke of Norfolk. The court is enlarged, and the late tap room is a debtor's kitchen.

kitchen. In the two rooms of the common side debtors, the windows which were towards the street are *properly* stopt up. Though these are improvements, yet, it is a *bad* prison, and much too small. No infirmary. For common side debtors of both sexes there are only two rooms, which are also their night-rooms.—Persons are sometimes confined here for so small a sum as sixpence and the fees. See the Act of the Court Baron, 29th of Geo. II.

1788, Aug. 5, Prisoners 16.*

SHEFFIELD TOWN GAOL. Here is an addition of two small rooms under the town-hall, which open into a narrow passage. This prison is on a plan by far too contracted for a populous and manufacturing town, so that the faulty ap-

* The keeper told me, that then there were near three hundred warrants, and often many more, but the prison is so small they could not be executed. Debtors are frequently brought here for the non-payment of their ale-house scores; for the occasion of the imprisonment of nine debtors out of ten in large manufacturing towns is drunkenness and idleness. I have often wished that in *all* bills for *small debts*, there was a *clause to prohibit arrests for debts contracted in public houses*.

prentices

prentices are sent to the house of correction at Wakefield; where they are often ruined by associating with criminals. (*See the notes under Birmingham and Leeds.*)

1788, Aug. 5, Prisoner 1.

BATLEY. No alteration: the prison dirty: the late keeper died by drinking: his widow pays the chief bailiff 21*l.* *per annum*: the tap is still continued.

1788, Jan. 8, Debtors 22.

HALIFAX PRISON for the *Manor of Wakefield*, the property of the Duke of Leeds. No alteration: quite out of repair: the keeper still pays 24*l.* rent, window-tax, &c.

1788, Jan. 8, Debtors 4.

HALIFAX PRISON. A room on the ground floor adjoining to the engine house. By a room or two built over them for the keeper, escapes might

might be prevented. A felon had just broken out. 1788, Jan. 8, No prisoners.*

PONTEFRACT TOWN GAOL. The prison is under the town-hall. The passage to the two cells is called the room for debtors. No fireplace. The windows of the cells are towards the street. No court; no water.

1788, Jan. 10, No Prisoners.†

COUNTY

* In looking into the *Cloth-Hall* in this town, I was struck with the elegant neatness and plainness of the building, as affording many good hints for a *penitentiary house*: I therefore determined to give the elevation of part of this building in my plan. The area is 110 yards by 90: the building is quadrangular, containing 315 rooms; their size twelve feet and a half by eight; the windows three feet wide: the staircases and passages are of stone; the latter 6 feet wide to the iron balustrade, and also, *very properly*, 3 feet 5 inches high. The rules and orders are hung up on the staircases.

† At *Ackworth*, near Pontefract, there is a school belonging to the people called Quakers || in a healthy and fine situation.

|| This much respected people, with whom I have passed many agreeable hours of my life, I trust will believe me when I say I cordially join in opinion with Dr. *Percival*, who in his *Dissertations* says, "The people *improperly*, because *opprobriously*, called *Quakers*, certainly merit a very high degree of esteem from their fellow citizens, on account of their industry, temperance, peaceableness, and catholic spirit of charity." To which I will add, as an amiable property, their uncommon neatness in their persons and houses.

The

COUNTY HOSPITAL at YORK.

The four wards (two for each sex) were clean and quiet, and not in the least offensive.

The house was built as an appendage to the foundling hospital, but was purchased (for about £7000) at the desire of that excellent man Dr. *Fothergill*, and intended for the education, maintenance, and clothing of children of both sexes, whose parents are *not* in affluence. They are instructed in reading, writing, and accompts, and the girls in knitting, spinning, plain needlework and domestic occupations. A small part of every day is devoted to silent and serious thoughtfulness, which does not seem tedious or irksome to the children, for they are habituated from their early infancy, at stated times, to silence and attention.

The house is a good and spacious building, and well adapted for the proper separation of the boys and girls. No children are admitted younger than nine years of age, except orphans, and but few remain in the house after they are fourteen. As the school is partly supported by donations and legacies, the expense to the parents is easy (about eight guineas a year for each child). The general average number of children is three hundred and ten. From the 18th of October, 1779, to the end of 1787, nine hundred and ninety-two children have been admitted. Of these only twelve have died; three of them by the small-pox in 1782, in the natural way. Of thirty-two who were inoculated, none died.

At

five. The bedsteads were iron, with wood laths; the furniture linen: the beds were hair on straw mattresses. Such beds are the most proper, as the hair when washed, dried and picked is as good as new. Patients at entrance are ungenerously obliged to advance 10s. each for washing their linen, &c. but if they are soon discharged, part of the money is returned.

At my visit, Jan. 10th, 1788, there were one hundred and sixty-two boys, and one hundred and eight girls, neat and clean, at their several employments, and the school-rooms were in great order. The children were calm and quiet, and their countenances indicated that this did not proceed from fear of the severity of their masters or mistresses. (I well remember an expression of the doctor's to me with reference to this school, "we have got a person at the head of it, who is made for the purpose.") Their bed-rooms were clean and in order: the children (properly) lie on hair mattresses, and in each room is an usher or mistress.—I omit the diet table, because I do not approve of beer for children, nor of meat oftener than once or twice in a week.

D U R H A M.

COUNTY GAOL AT DURHAM.

Here is a division in one or two of the felons' large rooms; and the workmen were enclosing the vacant piece of ground for a court. The gaoler has neither salary nor licence. The prison was quiet. No persons were drinking or carousing, as I have seen at my former visits. Gaol delivery only *once* a year. Several debtors immediately went out, on the insolvent bill not passing.

1787, Aug. 21, Debtors 16. Felons, &c. 13.

COUNTY BRIDEWELL.

Two rooms under the street are added to this prison, which are *damp* and *close*; one of them is the

the lodging-room for men. The magistrates have now, very properly, their *own* keeper.

1787, Aug. 21, Prisoners 10.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

NEWCASTLE TOWN AND COUNTY GAOL,

A clean prison: proper bedding for debtors and felons: I never found any sick prisoners. Gaol delivery only *once* a year. By the ingenuity of one of the convicts, several had just broken out. Confinement by night in solitary cells would prevent such escapes. Gaoler's salary 80*l*, in lieu of the tap.

1787, Aug. 18, - - Debtors 14.

Felons, &c. 10.

NEWCASTLE BRIDEWELL. Proper bedding and firing are allowed. The prisoners were spinning. The rooms want white-washing.

1787, Aug. 19, Prisoners 6.*

COUNTY GAOL AT MORPETH.

No alteration. Gaoler *John Blake*: salary £60 in lieu of the tap. The late gaoler, a man of a remarkably vigorous constitution, destroyed himself by drinking, in the prime of life. Allowance to felons (*2d. per day*) still paid only *once* a

* *Newcastle Infirmary* is in an airy situation: the wards were clean; the floors of wood, not brick, as at Edinburgh hospital, which I had seen a few days before; the bed-furniture woollen. (Linen seems better, as being more easily washed, and not so retentive of scents). No water closets to the wards: a good cold bath, but by the appearance of the patients, seldom used: the meat good, but the bread heavy. Aug. 19th, 1787, 74 Patients.

month,

month. Their dungeon *close* and *offensive*; not white-washed. No court for felons, though the gaol delivery is only *once* a year.* Here a woman, committed for receiving a stolen handkerchief, though lately brought to bed, was in heavy irons, which were taken off while I was there.

1787, Aug. 18, Debtors 15. Felons, &c. 12,

COUNTY BRIDEWELL,

MORPETH. Keeper now *John Doxford*, and he lives in the house: salary £30. He is a clothier, and the prisoners were carding and spinning. The prison not white-washed. No court.

1787, Aug. 18, Prisoners 2.

* At the summer assize in 1787, the felons of both sexes were, as usual, conveyed to *Newcastle*, and confined in the *damp dungeon* seven nights. I heard that the county-hall was presented; but was not the presentment of this unhealthy dungeon equally necessary, where the water was running down the walls in August, 1787?

ALN.

ALNWICK. At Alnwick Castle there are the remains of an ancient prison. The entrance is through a narrow passage, sixteen feet long, to a room eleven feet four inches by ten feet four.— At the center, there is a descent by a ladder, through an aperture (two feet four inches, by one foot ten inches) into a dark and damp dungeon, about eight feet and a half square and eleven feet high. Such *dungeons*, and even much worse have I seen in old castles; it being the general mode of confinement in barbarous ages, when the *security* of prisoners was *alone* considered.

BERWICK UPON TWEED* TOWN and COUNTY GAOL. No alteration. The rooms are over the town-hall. Sewers offensive. No court.

1787, Aug. 17. Debtors 3.

* I looked into the *poor-house* at *Berwick*, and found on a warm day every window shut, and consequently, the rooms very close and offensive.

CUM.

CUMBERLAND.

COUNTY GAOL AT CARLISLE.

No alteration, but a pump with fine water.— Men and women felons still crowded into two small rooms, which at night are very *close* and hot. Acquitted prisoners are kept in irons till the judge leaves the town. Four of the convicts experienced Lord *Loughborough's* kindness by a pardon at the summer circuit, 1787. A new gaol is proposed to be built in the castle yard, where, I doubt not, there will be a proper separation of the sexes.—Allowance to debtors 9*d.* to some 1*s.* a week, and felons 18*d.* paid only on Saturdays. Keeper's salary augmented from 2*l.* to 6*l.* in lieu of the tap. On mentioning the abolition of the tap to Mr. *Losh*, the surgeon, he said, I am persuaded the prisoners would be healthier if they had proper nourishment, and only milk admitted

admitted into the gaol; * and they would be
quieter; for when any liquor is brought them,
they

* “ One circumstance peculiarly worthy of notice, is the
“ perfect and uninterrupted health of the inhabitants of New
“ Zealand. In all the visits made to their towns, where old
“ and young, men and women, crowded about our voyagers,
“ they never observed a single person who appeared to have
“ any bodily complaint; nor among the numbers that were seen
“ naked, was once perceived the slightest eruption upon the skin,
“ or the least mark which indicated that such an eruption had for-
“ merly existed. Another proof of the health of these people is
“ the facility with which the wounds they at any time receive are
“ healed. In the man who had been shot with a musquet-ball
“ through the fleshy part of his arm, the wound seemed to be
“ so well digested, and in so fair a way of being perfectly
“ healed, that if Mr. *Cook* had not known that no application
“ had been made to it, he declared that he should certainly
“ have enquired, with a very interested curiosity, after the
“ vulnerary herbs and surgical art of the country. An addi-
“ tional evidence of human nature’s being untainted with
“ disease in New Zealand, is the great number of old men
“ with whom it abounds. Many of them, by the loss of their
“ hair and teeth, appeared to be very ancient, and yet none of
“ them were decrepid. Although they were not equal to the
“ young in muscular strength, they did not come in the least
“ behind them with regard to cheerfulness and vivacity. *Wa-*
“ *ter*, as far as our navigators could discover, is the *universal*
“ and *only* liquor of the New Zealanders. It is greatly to be
“ wished, that their happiness in this respect may never be de-
“ stroyed

they are riotous and quarrellsome, and plotting to break out. Gaol delivery only *once* a year.

1788, Jan. 2, - - - Debtors 32.*
Felons, &c. 20.
Deserters 2.

CAR-

“stroyed by such a connection with the European nations, as
“shall introduce that fondness for spirituous liquors which hath
“been so fatal to the Indians of North America.”

See *the Life of Captain Cook*, by Dr. Kippis,
Chap. II. p. 100. 1788.

* Here was a *prisoner*, lately the widow of an old gentleman, who left her an estate of £300 *per annum*, and about £7000 in mortgages. She was afterwards married in Scotland to a Mr. *Milbourne* of this city, who soon spent £4000, but upon some disagreement she refused to give up the mortgages of the other £3000. By an attachment from the court of chancery, her husband sent her to the common gaol, which confinement prevented her compliance with an order for appearance at that court in fifteen days of St. *Hilary's* term next ensuing. At first she was on the master's side; but the late gaoler, after cruelly seizing her clothes, &c. for chamber-rent, turned her to the common side. Her room (nine feet and a half by eight and a half) has no fire-place. She, not having the county allowance, supports herself by spinning and knitting, and the occasional *kindness* of her late husband's relations, while her present husband is living and rioting on her estate.

CARLISLE CITY GAOL. No alteration:
Only one room over the gateway. No water.

1788, Jan. 2, No Prisoners.

By a letter dated the 14th of October, 1788, from a respectable gentleman at Carlisle, I am informed that Mrs. *Milbourne* is still in the gaol, and that for above two years, Mr. *Milbourne* did not give her one farthing, her subsistence being wholly on occasional charities, and the small earnings of spinning, at which employment she could not get more than 4*d.* but now by practice and extremely close application (when health permits) can earn 10*d.* a week. In March last her husband sent her twenty shillings, and in October, 1788, (twenty-seven weeks after) the same sum. The justices last quarter sessions commiserating her hardships, have allowed her the county bounty; the first shilling of which, this modest poor woman received the 11th of October, 1788.

COUNTY

COUNTY GAOL AT APPLEBY.

No alteration but two rooms built by the new gaoler, when he had the tap.* In lieu of the tap, he has now only £5 from the county. Allowance to felons 4*d.* in money. Gaol delivery only *once* a year; one of the prisoners will remain ten or eleven months before his trial.

1788, Jan. 4, Debtor 1. Felons, &c. 6,

COUNTY BRIDEWELLS.

APPLEBY. No alteration. The two rooms, *damp* and *dark*, were lately flooded. No court.

1788, Jan. 4, Prisoner 1.

* The late gaoler killed himself by drinking; and I find, in my visits, that many others have died by this vice; the *taps* in the gaols having been a *very* strong temptation to them.

KENDAL. Here is a *new prison* for a county bridewell and the town gaol. It consists of four secure cells (eleven feet by nine feet two inches, and eight feet high) which are called the gaol: on the doors are *curious* locks which cannot be picked, made by an ingenious workman in that town. There are twelve rooms (thirteen feet by eleven, and eight feet high) on the two floors above, some of which are called the debtors' rooms, and four are occupied by the gaoler. None of the rooms were clean, though the house is new, and a fine stream of water is constantly running in the court. No allowance but their earnings.—Gaoler's salary £7:11:0 and £7:11:0 as keeper of the bridewell.*

1788, Jan. 1, Prisoners 6.

* I found the *work-house* clean and quiet, as at my former visits. The ceilings of all the rooms are too low, only seven feet high; the kitchen is improperly placed, and paved with pebbles, and there is no infirmary.

 LANCASHIRE.

COUNTY GAOL, LANCASTER CASTLE.

This prison was *clean* and *quiet*. Many of the convicts had only a single ring; and from a view of the prisoners in their rooms, and at chapel, I am persuaded the gaoler, Mr. *Higgins*, is *humane* and *attentive*.* Allowance to the debtors who are poor, two sixpenny loaves a week; to felons $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of household bread a day, and a pennyworth of potatoes, butter, or cheese; and on Sunday, half a pound of good beef without bone, and a quart of broth. Coals both to debtors and felons. The assize convicts have not the half crown a week.

* In attending the service here on a Sunday, I observed some of the debtors much affected at this passage in one of the psalms which was read that day, *O let the sorrowful sighing of the prisoners come before thee*, Psal. lxxix. 12. which gave me the hint of taking it for a motto to my present publication.

The

The good old surgeon, Mr. *Wright*, constantly refuses the debtors' application for spirituous liquors, as he well knows the quarrels, riot and confusion, such admission has frequently caused in gaols.*—I was glad to find rules and orders hung up, and shall take the liberty to make a few observations on some of them, as several other counties may *probably* adopt the good regulations here enforced.—A very convenient house is built

* Dr. *McFarlan*, one of the ministers of Canongate, Edinburgh; in his *Inquiries concerning the Poor*; (1782) says, that “the habit of drinking spirituous liquors to excess has become so frequent among the common people, that we can hardly walk the streets without seeing its shocking effects. There is *no vice* that has *ruined* a greater number of *tradesmen*, or brought more families to *misery*, than *this*. Its effects, in general, are such, that before mid-day the unhappy victim is unqualified for business. Artificially exhilarated, he goes on, regardless of the consequences; and does not retire from the scene of dissipation, till both his money and credit are exhausted. In a very short time, the whole frame is debilitated, and he is rendered incapable of any continued labour. When this practice is confirmed by habit, they must have recourse to strong liquors to brace their trembling nerves; so that, even in the most abject state of poverty, every pittance they receive is expended in this manner. It is an *object* worthy of the *attention* of the *legislature*, and of every friend to *mankind*, to do what is *possible* to *restrain* so great an evil.”

for the gaoler; and alterations are intended for the separation of prisoners, and solitary cells.* I have lately been informed that these improvements are now carrying on under the direction of Mr. *Harrison*, architect in Lancaster. Lord *Loughborough*, on the summer circuit, 1787, very humanely interceded for the pardon of nine of the best behaved convicts, and I hear that their conduct since has shewn them worthy of the favour.

Debtors committed to this gaol in 1778, 109—1779, 133
1780, 126—1781, 96—1782, 121—1783, 120—1784,
97; 1785, 118—1786, 127—1787, 125.—*Total* 1172.

In this county the law is more *severe* against debtors than in any other, owing to the court of common pleas that is held in it. The proceedings against debtors who are arrested by process from that court are ruled by the assizes, and not by the terms of the courts above; so that a debtor may

* It may be asked, of what size I would wish prisoners' solitary *night-rooms* to be? I answer, ten feet long, ten feet high, and eight feet wide; thus adopting a mean between the two extremes allowed by the act of parliament for penitentiary houses. (19th Geo. III.) Warming the rooms in any manner is unnecessary to those in health; but the sick must be provided for.

stay

stay in gaol twelve months before the plaintiff files his declaration : whereas a debtor in *London, York, &c.* is declared against in two terms. If the plaintiff proceed, it is two years before he can take the benefit of the acts of parliament, though his debt be only 10*l.* Gaoler's salary 210*l.* in lieu of the tap, fees, chamber-rent, &c. Several debtors came in at the close of a former year, in hopes of an insolvent act.

1787, Dec. 29, Debtors 53.

Felons, 65 including 37 Convicts.

RULES, ORDERS

AND

REGULATIONS

To be observed and enforced for the Government of the COUNTY GAOL, in the CASTLE of LANCASTER.

- I. No abuse, ill-treatment, quarrelling, or affray to be suffered amongst the prisoners;
nor

nor drunkenness, cursing, swearing, obscene or indecent language, nor gaming by dice, cards, or any other method whatsoever, *on pain* of being punished by closer confinement, fettering, and withholding their allowance; which punishments the gaoler is hereby authorized and required to inflict for the above offences, or other acts of disobedience to these rules and orders; but not to continue any of the above punishments for more than *seven days*, without a written order from one or more justice or justices of the peace for the county of Lancaster.

- II. The gaoler shall provide and keep one or more books, in which he shall write down the name of every prisoner who shall in any wise behave ill, or be refractory and disobedient, specifying his offence, and the nature and term of his punishment; and he shall also insert the names of such prisoners who shall observe these rules, regularly attend public worship, and behave in a peaceable, orderly manner. And he shall regularly produce these
- †† G
- books.

books to the visiting justices, and at the assizes and quarter sessions.

III. The gaoler shall not, on any account or pretence whatsoever, demand or take from any prisoner in his custody, or any other person, any money or other matter, for fees, garnish money, chamber rents, &c. or for and at the entrance or discharge of any prisoner.

IV. The gaoler shall most strictly forbid and prohibit the demanding or taking any fees, garnish, or other money, by the prisoners, from one another, on any account or pretence whatsoever.

V. The gaoler shall not be concerned or interested, directly or indirectly, in any profits or advantages to be derived from providing meat, drink, cloaths, or other things, for any of the prisoners.

VI. The gaoler shall provide, and keep in exact order, (at the expence of the county) scales, weights, and liquor measures, legally

gally stamped, for the free use of all the prisoners.

VII. The gaoler shall provide coals, soap, vinegar, blankets, straw, mops, sand, brushes, besoms, pails, washing bowls, towels, wifkets, and coal boxes, for the necessary use of the prisoners, so that their persons and all parts of the prison may be preserved (as much as possible) in a state of cleanliness and health: and he shall deliver in an account of the same, and of the expences incurred, at each court of quarter sessions; who are hereby empowered to examine and allow the same, and to order the county treasurer to pay the amount to the gaoler.

VIII. Every person committed for felony, and every convict on being brought to the gaol, shall have all his own cloaths taken off, and be cleaned and washed, and be cloathed in the prison uniform; his own cloaths to be cleaned and stoved in an heated oven, ticketed and laid up, for the prisoner to put on again on his or her trial or discharge.

IX. No wives or children of any prisoner to be permitted to sleep in gaol, nor lodgers of any kind.

X. No pigs, fowls, or other animals must be kept within the walls of the prison, except the keeper's dogs, for his security.

XI. The gaoler shall ring the bell at the hour of locking up, which, during the months of November, December, January and February, shall be four o'clock, when the convicts, and those committed on charges of felony, shall be locked up in their day-rooms, in which shall be fires: and that during these months, the convicts shall be locked in their separate cells, or night-rooms, at seven o'clock, and the prisoners committed on charges of felony at eight o'clock. The gaoler shall also ring his bell on opening the wards and cells, which in the four winter months shall be at eight o'clock in the morning, and at sun-rising from the first of March to the first of October; or not later than six

fix o'clock. The debtors to be locked up at nine o'clock during the whole year.

XII. The gaoler shall take especial care, that every day-room, night-room, and cell be swept clean by one or more prisoners in rotation, every day before breakfast, and washed every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

XIII. Every felon and bridewell prisoner shall have a daily allowance of one pound and a half of good and wholesome wheaten bread, *one day old*, and fairly weighed out by the prison scales, and also one pennyworth of cheese, butter, peas, potatoes, turnips, &c. according to the season; and the weekly allowance from the county to the poor debtors shall be given to them in bread, and not in money. These allowances of provisions to be given out every morning to the prisoners, as soon as the rooms shall be made clean; but to be entirely withheld from all such as shall not have their hands and faces clean
washed,

washed, and their persons clean and neat.

XIV. As an encouragement to industry, cleanliness, and good order, and a due attendance on religious worship, an extra allowance shall be made on every Sunday, of half a pound of coarse beef, and one quart of broth, (prepared with onions and turnips, &c. in which it has been boiled) to every prisoner who shall have behaved well during the preceding week : but all allowances and indulgencies to be kept back from such prisoners who shall not duly attend divine service, according to the rules of the prison.

XV. No person whatsoever shall be permitted to bring ale or beer to the prisoners, (spirituous liquors are by law prohibited) except betwixt the hours of twelve and one at noon, and in the afternoon betwixt three and four in winter, and six and seven in summer; and no more than three pints a day to be allowed to each prisoner.

XVI.

XVI. The gaoler shall keep a register, divided into regular columns, in which he shall write the following particulars of each prisoner committed to his charge, *viz.* name and place of abode; age; stature; complexion; colour of hair—by whom committed; for what offence; when, and how discharged; remarks on general behaviour, &c. to be returned at each assize and quarter session,

XVII. The sheriff of this county and his deputy, the justices at the quarter sessions, the grand jury at the assizes, and the visiting and other magistrates, are requested to inspect this gaol as frequently as possible, and to enquire how the above regulations are observed by the gaoler and his servants, and also by all the prisoners.

XVIII. The gaoler shall every day visit every part of the prison, except prevented by sickness or necessary absence, and also attend at divine service whenever the chaplain shall officiate.

XIX.

XIX. The criminals, in rotation, shall every day pump up a full supply of the water for the use of the prison, as the gaoler shall appoint.

XX. The chaplain shall read prayers and preach a sermon every Sunday morning, and read prayers in the afternoon; and also read prayers every Wednesday and Friday, at eleven o'clock; and that the chaplain be empowered to purchase, at the expence of the county, Bibles and Common-prayer books, for the religious instruction of the poor prisoners, at his discretion.

XXI. The surgeon shall personally visit the felons, convicts, and poor debtors, whenever required; and once a week, or oftener, at other times.

XXII. These rules, orders, and regulations, together with a table of donations and legacies, and the three prohibitory clauses of

of the 24th Geo. II. chap. 40. shall be hung up, painted on a board or boards, in the most conspicuous part of the prison, and a sufficient number of them shall be printed for the use of the prisoners; and they shall be distinctly read over by the chaplain, on the first Sunday in every month after divine service.

Lancashire to wit. We whose names are hereunto subscribed, his majesty's justices of the peace, assembled in open sessions, January, 1786, approve of the above rules and orders, to be observed within the county gaol at Lancaster.

T. B. Bayley,	R. Andrews,
John Chadwick,	S. Clowes, jun.
James Bradshaw,	Ashton Lever,
M. Bentley,	Wm. Cunliffe Shawe,
R. Shuttleworth,	J. Barton,
Robert Moss,	Thomas Baldwin,
Wm. Fleetwood,	Thomas Lyon,
R. Rowbottom.	

The before-written rules and regulations are confirmed and allowed by me, at the assize and general gaol delivery of our Lord the King, held in and for the county of Lancaster, the twenty-ninth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six.

E. WILLES.

Observations on these Rules.

- I. Instead of *seven* days, the gaoler's power to punish should, in my opinion, be limited to *three* days.
- VIII. I was sorry to find that the magistrates had made no provision for the execution of this order.
- X. By this good rule the keeper should have been limited as to the *number* of his dogs; for none should be permitted to have more than one or two.

XV.

XV. This seems too great an allowance, especially to convicts.

XVII. I hope the *magistrates* will be very attentive to this good regulation.

XXI. Every regulation should be *explicit*. I have heard surgeons complain that they did not know who were *included* among those denominated *poor* debtors. In prisons where there are free wards, I should call those *poor* debtors who do not pay for a room or bed.

COUNTY BRIDEWELL.

PRESTON. Three of the rooms in this prison are made into a chapel. The court not being secure, the prisoners are never out. No bedding but a little straw. Employment, winding linen yarn and cotton, and spinning worsted.

Prisoners have no allowance but their earnings: * here exceptions should be made, for some have suffered through sickness and want. About a year ago several were sick, but being properly attended, and relieved by charitable donations, and the glass being removed from all the windows of their cells, none died.—Here was a debtor from the Court of Requests, debt 7s. 8d. costs £1. 6. 10.

* By a careful inspection of the countenances of criminals in this and some other prisons, I am fully persuaded that the abolition of the tap is greatly conducive to their health. Their little money is now more generally spent in wholesome food, and they do not sell their bread allowance to buy liquors. In the northern counties of England, milk is only a halfpenny a quart, and oatmeal, which is much used by prisoners, is about 1½d. a pound. Ten ounces boiled in water, with a little salt and butter, make a good mess, which is here called water potage; or if boiled with a little sugar and currants is called gruel.—Groats and water well boiled, and parboiled currants, will keep two or three days, and, when warmed and sweetened, I think will make a good medicine for the sick in prisons; and good vegetable soup is better than meat soup. If I might advise as to drink, tea is a wholesome and good liquor; and not only prisoners, but, as I have often found, sailors when sick, are very fond of it.

A new prison is nearly built on Mr. Blackburn's plan, in a fine situation, on a much larger scale, which will do honour to the county,

1787, Dec. 28, Debtor 1. Criminals 37.

To this Prison there were committed

	Prisoners.	For Felony.	Bastardy.
In 1782,	123	18	18
1783,	173	43	26
1784,	159	41	21
1785,	173	47	25
1786,	183	26	27
1787,	179	29	23

	Misdemeanors.	Vag.	Desert.	Debtors.
In 1782,	61	5	15	6
1783,	86	6	7	5
1784,	71	14	11	1
1785,	71	4	16	2
1786,	110	15	4	1
1787,	110	7	7	3

MANCHESTER. No alteration. The women's side very clean. Employment, winding, spinning and picking cotton. The prisoners have their earnings, as there is no allowance except two-pence a day to the sick.

By the spirited exertions of Mr. Bayley, and other magistrates, a new prison is building on a large scale, from Mr. Blackburn's plan, in which there will be single cells, and separate apartments for faulty apprentices, &c. This prison will reflect much credit on the good sense and liberality of the hundred of *Salford*, in this county, which alone defrays all the costs of the building.

1787, Dec. 27, Prisoners 53.

LANCASTER TOWN GAOL. No alteration.

1787, Dec. 31, No Prisoners.

LIVER-

LIVERPOOL BOROUGH GAOL.

No alteration in the old gaol. Allowance, to debtors, 3*d.* felons, 2*d.* and convicts, 4*d.* a day. Gaoler's salary augmented to 120*l.* in lieu of the tap. The sick are supplied with medicines from the infirmary.

The *corporation* have spared no expense for the new gaol which Mr. *Blackburn* is employed in building: there will be a proper separation of the different classes and sexes; and with a view to security, health, reformation and convenience, I apprehend, it will be one of the first borough gaols in the kingdom.

1787, Dec. 22, - - Debtors 18.

Felons, &c. 22.

LIVER-

LIVERPOOL BRIDEWELL. No alteration. The keeper's apartments having no view into either of the courts, may be one reason that both sexes were locked up. All the men were in heavy irons, and seven out of eight women were chained to the floors, and in bed at noon on Sunday, having had no fire for several days.* The next day, two being thus chained, at my desire, they were released and set to picking oakum.†

Allow-

* All the bedding was on the floors; for the bedsteads were laid in the upper rooms, because some of the prisoners had made a sort of ladder with them to get through the floor above, in order to facilitate an escape. But bedsteads and bedding are necessary for the health of prisoners; and escapes would be prevented by confinement in separate cells. In some of the cells solid stone or brick might be worked into the walls, about eighteen inches from the floor, and cased with oak planks raised at the head, on which the bedding might be laid, as I have seen in some foreign prisons.

† In Chester city gaol, Liverpool bridewell, and other prisons, I told the keepers that steady, lenient and persuasive methods

Allowance, only a twopenny loaf (weight 17 oz.) and no provisions are permitted to be brought in; nor have the prisoners any part of their earnings.*

1787, Dec. 23, Prisoners 15.†

WAR-

methods with prisoners, are the best means to prevent them from breaking out; for their minds being uneasy, and their bodies harassed, they are often driven to desperate attempts, which sometimes will be successful: and I mentioned the good effects of such measures at Oxford castle. Some of the keepers said, "they *now* find, they can do more with their prisoners by lenient measures, than with a rough hand."

* Criminals of a certain description are entitled, by two acts of parliament, in his present Majesty's reign, to one half of the neat profits which they shall have earned, at the time of their discharge, and not before. These earnings I could wish to be given them at the *end* of every week, on the *gross* profits; which would take off all suspicion from their minds, as to the certainty of receiving them; and consequently, would afford greater encouragement to diligence. I would have them limited however by the magistrates (as is the case in many foreign houses of correction) with respect to the articles they should be allowed to purchase with their earnings, an account of which should be *hung up* in the prison; such as milk, tea, coffee, cocoa, bread, butter, vegetables, meat, &c.

† In the *poor-house*, which is finely situated near the bride-well, there were near a thousand inhabitants. In taking a cur-

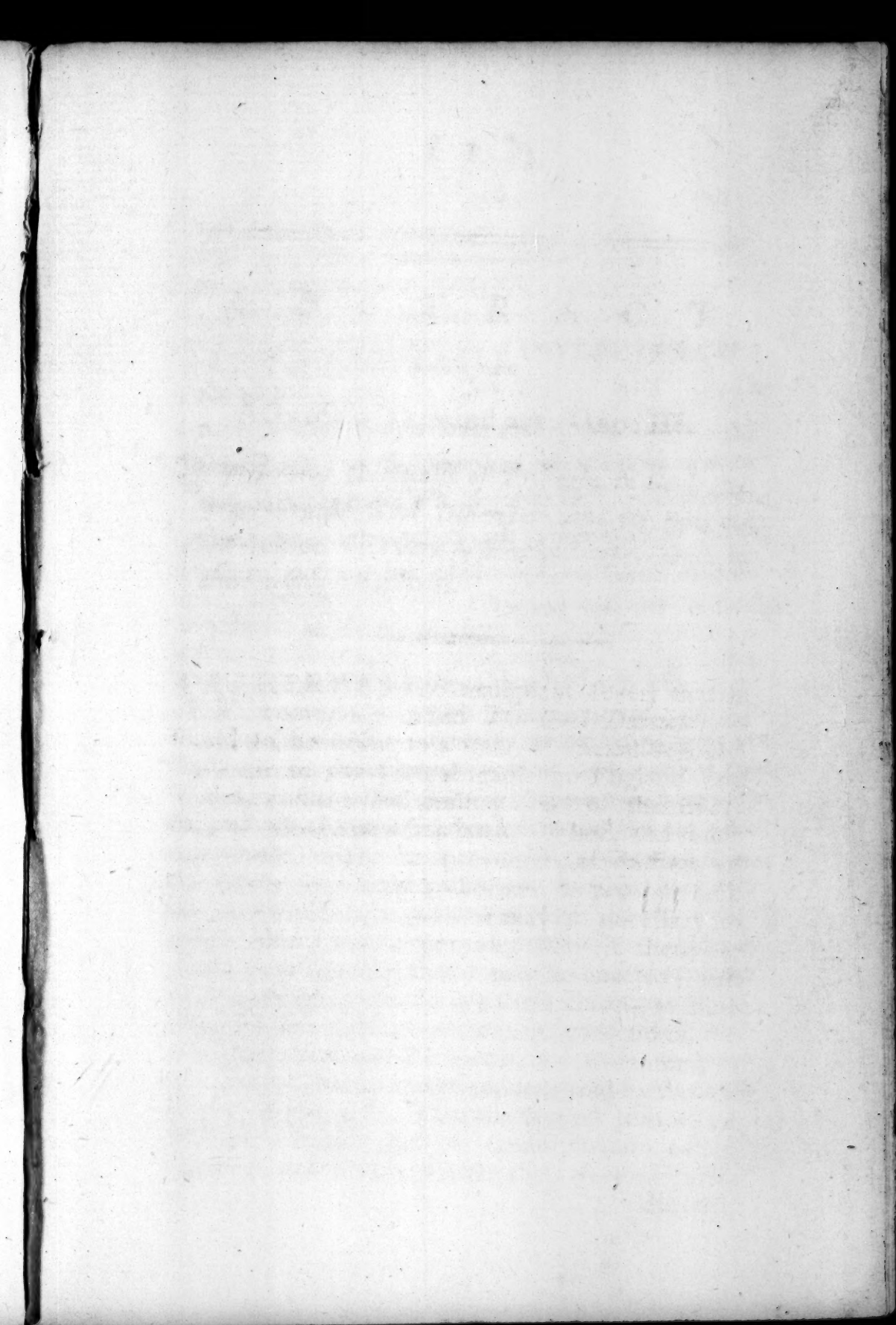
WARRINGTON TOWN GAOL and BRIDGEWELL. Two arched cells in the work-house yard, about seven feet and a half square, with barrack beds for the prisoners' straw: the sewers in the inside. Allowance, the same as to the *poor* in the work-house: the countenances of these indicate that they have sustained no loss in the death of the late keeper.

1788, Nov. 27, No Prisoners.

fory view, I could not but observe, the confusion and irregularity at dinner-time; the impropriety of having such numbers of the great boys and girls together, and at the top of the house; and the want of attention to a proper separation of the sexes in the sick-rooms.



ABSTRACT



A B S T R A C T

FROM THE

Acts of the 14th and 24th GEO. III.

For preserving the Health of Prisoners in Gaol, and preventing the Gaol Distemper; and for enabling the Justices of Peace to build and repair Gaols in their respective Counties.

WHEREAS the malignant fever, that is commonly called *The Gaol Distemper*, is found to be owing to a want of cleanliness and fresh air in the several gaols in England and Wales, and the fatal consequences of that disorder, of which there has been, of late, too much experience, might be prevented, if Justices of the Peace were duly authorized to provide such accommodations in gaols as may be necessary to answer this salutary purpose: May it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the several Justices of the Peace, in that part of Great Britain called England and Wales, within their several jurisdictions,

a

dictions, in their quarter sessions assembled, are hereby authorized and required to order the walls and cielings of the several cells and wards, both of the debtors and the felons, and also of any other rooms used by the prisoners in their respective gaols and prisons, where felons are usually confined, to be scraped and white-washed, once in the year at least; to be regularly washed and kept clean, and constantly supplied with fresh air, by means of hand ventilators, or otherwise; to order two rooms in each gaol or prison, one for the men, and the other for the women, to be set apart for the sick prisoners, directing them to be removed into such rooms as soon as they shall be seized with any disorder, and kept separate from those who shall be in health; to order a warm and cold bath, or commodious bathing tubs, to be provided in each gaol or prison, and to direct the prisoners to be washed in such warm or cold baths or bathing tubs, according to the condition in which they shall be at the time, before they are suffered to go out of such gaols or prisons upon any occasion whatever; to order this act to be painted in large and legible characters upon a board, and hung up in some conspicuous part of each of the said gaols and prisons; and to appoint an experienced surgeon or apothecary, at a stated salary, to attend each gaol or prison respectively, who shall, and he is hereby directed to report to the said Justices by whom he is appointed, at each quarter sessions, a state of the health of the prisoners under his care or superintendence.

“ And



“ And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Justices of the Peace, in their said quarter sessions assembled, are hereby authorized to direct the several courts of justice within their respective jurisdictions to be properly ventilated; to order cloaths to be provided for the prisoners when they see occasion; to prevent the prisoners from being kept under ground, whenever they can do it conveniently; and to make such other orders, from time to time, for restoring or preserving the health of prisoners, as they shall think necessary.

“ And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the expences attending the execution of the orders of the said Justices, made in pursuance of this act, so far as the same shall respect county gaols and prisons, and courts of justice belonging to counties, shall be borne and defrayed, at all times, out of the respective county rates; and so far as the same shall respect the gaols and prisons, and courts of justice, of particular cities, towns corporate, cinque ports, liberties, franchises, or places, that do not contribute to the rates of the counties in which they are respectively situated, such expences shall be defrayed out of the public stock or rates of such cities, towns corporate, cinque ports, liberties, franchises, or places, having such exclusive jurisdictions, to which such gaols, or prisons, or courts of justice shall respectively belong: And if any gaoler or keeper of any prison shall, at any time, neglect or disobey the orders of such Justices made in pursuance of this act, he may be proceeded
against

against in a summary way, by complaint made to the Judges of Assize, or to the Justices, in their quarter sessions: and if he be found guilty of such neglect or disobedience, he shall pay such fine as the Judges of Assize, or Justices, shall impose, and shall be committed in case of non-payment."

Abstract, 24th GEO. III.

" And whereas the preventing gaolers from selling any liquors, or deriving any profit from the sale of liquors, may be a great means of preventing drunkenness, riots, and other disorders in gaols, and of preserving good order therein; and it may be proper to give sufficient power and authority to the Justices of the Peace in their sessions, in certain cases, to allow salaries to gaolers, in lieu of the profits which are now derived from the sale of liquors; be it therefore enacted, That, from and after the said first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of the Peace of any county, riding, division, city, town, liberty, or precinct, within that part of Great Britain called England, or the principality of Wales, at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or some special adjournment of the same, held for such express purpose, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, if it shall appear to them necessary or proper, to appoint such salaries or allowances to such gaolers and their assistants, in the several gaols within their respective jurisdictions, and to vary the same, from time to time, as to them shall seem meet; and to order and direct the said salaries and allowances

allowances to be paid out of the county rate, by the treasurer of such county, riding, division, city, town, liberty, or precinct, upon a certificate, signed by the Chairman of such Quarter Sessions, specifying the salaries and allowances so directed to be made.

“ Provided always and be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any Chairman of any Quarter Sessions, or adjournment thereof, to sign such certificate, for such salaries or allowances to be granted under this act, unless such salaries or allowances shall have been settled at some General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or some special adjournment thereof, and notice shall have been given fourteen days at least before the holding such General Quarter Sessions, or such adjournment thereof, by two several advertisements inserted in some newspaper printed and circulated in the county, riding, division, city, town, liberty, or precinct, in which such gaols are situated, and where such salaries or allowances are to be granted to the gaolers, of an intended application for the granting such salaries or allowances; which said advertisements shall be signed by the Clerk of the Peace of such county, riding, division, city, town, liberty, or precinct, or his deputy, for the time being.

“ And be it further enacted, That from and after the twenty-fourth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five, no gaoler, or any person or persons in trust for or employed by
such

such gaoler, shall suffer tippling or gaming in such prison; or shall sell or dispose of, or permit or suffer to be sold or disposed of, or be capable of being licensed to sell or dispose of, any wine, beer, ale, or other liquors; or have any beneficial interest or concern whatsoever in the sale or disposal of any liquors of any kind, or in any tap house, tap room, or tap, under the penalty of ten pounds for every such offence, to be recovered by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels, by warrant under the hands and seals of any two Justices of the Peace acting for the county, riding, division, city, town, liberty, or precinct, within which such gaol is situated, (which warrant such Justices are hereby required to grant), upon the confession of the party or parties, or upon the information of any witness or witnesses, upon oath, (which oath such Justices are hereby empowered to administer); and the said penalty, after the charges of recovering the same shall be deducted, shall be paid one moiety to the informer, and the other moiety to the use of the prisoners confined within such gaol; and in case sufficient distress cannot be found, then it shall be lawful for such Justices to commit such offender or offenders to the house of correction for the county or place where the offence shall be committed, there to remain, without bail or mainprize, for any time not exceeding three calendar months, unless penalty, and all reasonable charges, shall be sooner paid and satisfied.

“ And

“ And be it further enacted, That all Justices of the Peace before whom any person shall be convicted of any offence against this act, shall and may cause the conviction to be drawn up in the following form, or to the like effect; that is to say,

County, } “ BE it remembered, That on the
 &c. of } day of in the
 year of the reign of his Majesty
 A. B. is convicted be-
 fore of his Majesty's
 Justices of the Peace for the said coun-
 ty, or riding, division, city, town, li-
 berty, or precinct (as the case shall be)
 by virtue of an act of Parliament made
 in the 24th year of the reign of his Ma-
 jesty King George the Third, intituled,
 [Here set forth the title of the act, and
 specify the offence, and the time and
 place when and where the same was
 committed.]

“ Given under our hands and seals,
 the day and year aforesaid.”

F I N I S.